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Sent: 10/1/2010 12:57:41 PM
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CC:
Subject: PA Fracking-Related Article

FYI -- from today's Greenwire:

Pa. orders pipeline for homes with contaminated wells (10/01/2010)

An \$11.8 billion pipeline will be built to provide water to 18 homes in a rural Pennsylvania town whose wells have been contaminated by natural gas from a Marcellus Shale gas driller, Texas-based Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., according to the state.

The state Department of Environmental Protection ordered the pipeline yesterday and said that it would force Cabot to pick up the bill, though the driller is denying that it is the cause of contamination in Dimock Township, calling the decision "unfounded, irrational and capricious." It took out ads in Pennsylvania and said that it "intends to fight these allegations through its scientific findings."

Residents in Dimock, where one owner of a contaminated well drew a handgun on a Cabot employee, have sued Cabot and turned down all of the company's previous offers to drill new wells or install in-house water treatment systems for residents with contaminated water. The company says it has spent \$8 million investigating the problem.

In a letter to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger, Cabot CEO Dan Dinges said that Hanger had "an obvious and unfounded bias against Cabot."

Dinges also said that a Jan. 1, 2009, explosion of a resident's well never happened and provided Hanger documents that said there was no evidence of an explosion and that the resident had been using a blow torch to work on the well several days before the incident.

Hanger said that the state DEP has been working for almost two years to resolve the contamination problem and that he was shocked by the letter from Dinges. "It's remarkable that Cabot has not resolved this problem," Hanger said (Andrew Maykuth, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sept. 30). -- **AP**

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